Kerosene distribution.

108. * MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state why kerosene is distributed in the Parur Municipal area only at one centre when controlled articles are sold at different centres in the town?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The distribution of kerosene oil within the Parur Municipal limits is made under the control of the Municipal Chairman. He has, so far, fixed only one centre for distribution *viz.*, the Municipal Office.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: മണ്ണെണ്ണ വിതരണക്കാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും പരാതികൾ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: ഉണ്ട്. കോട്ടയം ഡിസ്ട്രിക്റ്റ് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടിനോട് ഇക്കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചോദിച്ചതിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു പ്രദേശത്തു് മാത്രമേ മണ്ണെണ്ണ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നുള്ളൂ എന്നും കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലേക്ക് വേണ്ടി മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയോട് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും മറുപടി കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. In continuation of what I said on the opening day, I have received another document from the Military authorities which might be of interest to this Honourable House. It reads as follows:-

> "Drawn at present exclusively from the States of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottai, these men are employed on road and rail construction, loading and unloading freight planes for China, ditching and jungle-clearing in connection with anti-malaria precautions, and handling depot stores.
>
> As a high Indian Army Officer has said of them, "We should not get very far without this labour force. They have been invaluable as a complement of the Indian armed forces".
>
> When the Jap menace was unpleasantly real, an appeal was made to Indian States to provide labour for essential defensive construction works. The response was magnificent.
>
> In October 1942, men supplied by Travancore and Cochin numbered 17,000; today nearly 50,000 men are serving with the labour force, about equal numbers coming from each of the two States.
>
> While serving with a unit the men receive the same rations as Indian troops, and are fully clothed and equipped. The pay is one rupee a day for labourers, and all personnel receive a bonus of one month's pay after a year's service at the site of work. Compensation is payable for death and injury or death from disease while in field service areas.
>
> Each unit is under the command of a British officer assisted by supervising staff from the States. An agreement with the States provides that the men shall not be exposed to ground attack though they have stood up well to occasional air attack. In the original agreement there was also a stipulation that the men should not serve out of India, but a few months ago the States withdrew that condition, and the men have worked in Burma close on the heels of fighting men".

PRESIDENT: Order, order. There were certain questions put to me yesterday with regard to the procedure in respect of the Demands for Grants. I have now looked into the whole matter and in order that

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this may serve as a permanent record of the practice and convention of this House, I am making a comprehensive Ruling on the subject which I trust honourable members will take into account.

With regard to the demands for grants, it has become necessary to clarify one or two matters.

Under Rule 72 (Section 170 of the "Sri Mulam Assembly Manual") certain conditions are laid down for demands for grants. The first is that a motion for appropriation can be made only on the recommendation of the Government. The second is that the Assembly may make motions to omit or reduce any grant or any item in a grant but shall not increase or alter the destination of a grant. Thirdly, when several motions relating to the same demand are offered, they shall be discussed in the order in which the heads to which they relate appear in the Budget. Fourthly, no motion shall be made for the reduction of a grant as a whole until all the motions for the omission or reduction of definite items within the grant have been discussed.

Under this Rule, it is clear that a motion for the reduction of a grant as a whole should come last in the discussion of the demand. But when there are several motions relating to the same demand under different heads, the motions under each head have to be discussed separately in the order in which they appear in the Budget.

Motions for reduction or omission of grants may be of three kinds. In the first category come motions to omit the demand or to reduce the demand to a nominal figure of one rupee or less. All such motions for the practical elimination of the whole demand are entertained on the only ground that the mover wishes to refuse the grant because he does not approve of the whole policy underlying the demand. In no other case can such cut motions be allowed. Under the same category come all token cut motions for the reduction of the whole demand. The second group of cutmotions is for the purpose of economy or effecting retrenchment. While discussing such motions, it would be relevant to discuss only how that economy can be effected. Such cut motions may be, for instance' to reduce a sum of Rs. 800 out of the total grant of Rs. 3000 for salaries. The third form of cut motions is to move a cut for a nomial figure under a particular item in order to ventilate a specific grievance. Such nomial figure may be either one, or ten or hundred rupees. Under this head a specific and particular grievance may be ventilated. These cut motions are not considered to be motions under which the policy of the Government or of a particular department could be discussed. The token motion should relate to the total grant in order to allow discussion of the policy of Government or of the Department concerned. This position is clear from Ruling No. 132 quoted in the book 'Selection of the Decisions of the Chair of the Legislative Assembly'. This position is also supported by the Rulings from the Chair and quoted in "Selection from the Rulings from the Chair of the Travancore Legislature—1922 to 1937". I refer particularly to Rulings Nos. 173, 174, 195 196 and 199.

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[President]

Another point for consideration arises when there are a number of token cut motions for the reduction of the whole demand by one rupee as to how precedence is to be arranged and also when one of the cut motions has been voted on and there is still time left for discussion under the demand. For, instance, under the Head "General Administration" there are as many as ten or more cut motions for the reduction of the total allotment by one rupee. The question arises whether if there has been discussion and division on one of them, the other motions could be discussed thereafter. On this point, one or two rulings may be quoted.

In Ruling No. 207 in this House, the President ruled as follows: "There are eight or nine motions for token cuts under this Head. If the first token motion is voted on all the other token motions under the particular Head will lapse, and the members who have given notice of similar token motions may speak on this motion and bring forward all their objects. But there will be no particular issue before the House and the motion will be considered only as a censure." On the same question on 29-7-1938, the Ruling was given from the Chair, which is quoted below:

"After the House has divided on a token cut motion, the President passed over several motions for token cuts under the same particular head. One of the members asked for a ruling on the procedure. After hearing the Legal Remembrancer, the President ruled: "The point apparently has been raised and has been decided once by one of my predecessors. Apparently the idea that was in the mind of the President at that time was that when there is a motion for a token cut under a particular head, it was within the rights of the other members of the House to deal with all matters pertaining to that head and not necessarily confine themselves to the aspect dealt with by the mover of the motion. That must have been the reason for the decision that after disposal of such motions, all the other token motions under that head lapses. The idea is that the object of the motion has been achieved and has exhausted itself. That seems to have been the reason for the ruling given by my predecessor. There is a ruling to this effect and it is my duty to follow that ruling." (Vol.XII of the Legislative Assembly Proceedings Page 676).

It may be pointed out that the precedent in this Assembly for the last few years has been to follow the procedure laid down above.

VOTING ON DEMANDS

DEMAND III. Public Works Dpartment (Continued)

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: സർ, ജനങ്ങൾ സ്വന്തം കിലുവിന്മേൽ വെട്ടിയിട്ടുള്ള റോഡുകൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും എടുത്തുള്ള പ്രതിവർഷം സംരക്ഷണം നടത്തേണ്ടതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു ഞാൻ ഇന്നത്തെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടി

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